



Planning and Development Department Update

DATE: April 8, 2011
TO: Mayor Setti D. Warren
FROM: Candace Havens, Director of Planning and Development
RE: Friday Report 
CC: Board of Aldermen
Robert Rooney, Chief Operating Officer

This weekly report is intended to keep you informed of current development proposals and other noteworthy planning and development activities as follows:

Monday 4/11/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities, 6:30 p.m., Room 209• Zoning & Planning Committee, 7:45 p.m., Room 202
Tuesday 4/12/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic Development Commission, 7:30 p.m., Room 209• Auburndale Historic District Commission, 7:30 p.m., Room 203• Land Use –Public Hearing/Working Session, 7:45 p.m., Aldermanic Chamber
Wednesday 4/13/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newton Housing Partnership, 7:45 a.m., Room 202
Thursday 4/14/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Envisioning Needham Street" Community Meeting, 7:00 p.m., War Memorial• Newton Upper Falls Historic District Commission – cancelled, Next Meeting, March 12th

- **Farewell & Best Wishes:** Associate Director of Housing and Community Development, Amy Yuhasz recently announced her decision to accept a new position as a Community Planning and Development Representative with the Boston Regional Office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Amy has been with the Planning and Development Department for over twelve years and in 2009 was promoted to Associate Director of Housing and Community Development. In her position as Associate Director she has been responsible for administering nearly \$5 million of the federal funds received by Newton each year, including funds received through the Community Development Block Grant program, HOME Investment Partnerships program and Emergency Shelter Grant program. As part of the administration of HOME funds Amy led the 12-community WestMetro HOME Consortium on behalf of the City. Amy also oversaw the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funds and Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing funds, totaling \$1.5 million that the City received in 2009 to create jobs through public facility improvements and address the homeless and near-homeless population. She has also coordinated the Brookline-Newton-Waltham-Watertown Continuum of Care, a group whose goal is to alleviate homelessness through preventative services, shelter, and permanent housing. Amy has been active, on behalf of Newton, in the National Community Development Association. She will be greatly missed by all of her friends and colleagues. We wish her all the best! Until the position of Associate Director of Housing and Community Development is filled Trisha Guditz, Housing Program Manager, will be managing the Division.

- **Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities:** The Mayor's Committee will hold its monthly meeting **Monday, April 11th**, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 209 (please note room change). Agenda items include: Consideration of the approval of the minutes from the March 14 meeting; a presentation from Jeff Duggan, from the Massachusetts Office on Disability; a discussion on the Fair Housing Event proposed for Fair Housing Month; a discussion about additional handicap parking in West Newton and Waban Village and curb cuts/crosswalks at the intersection of Braeland Street and Cypress Street; and a report on CDBG-funded access project. The public will also have an opportunity to report on accessibility issues of noncompliance in the City. **Contact Kathleen Cahill at 617.796.1125 or kcahill@newtonma.gov.**
- **Zoning & Planning Committee:** The Committee will hold a **Working Session** on **Monday, April 11th**, 2011, at 7:45 p.m., Room 202. Items on the agenda include: **#7-99** requesting discussion of possible zoning amendments to create additional residential districts with different FAR and lot size requirements; **#154-10** requesting to amend Section 30-1, Definitions, by inserting a new definition of "lot area" and revising the

“setback line” definition for clarity; **#102-11** requesting an amendment to Chapter 17 to establish a fee for filing a notice of condo conversion. **#94-11** proposing an amendment to the accessory apartment ordinance to clarify owner occupied requirement; **#95-11** proposing an ordinance requiring that a notice of conversion to condominium ownership be filed with the Inspectional Services Department; **#235-10** requesting updates to Section 22-50, Demolition of historically significant buildings or structures, to minimize inconveniences to homeowners proposing modest changes and to enhance protections for historic structures proposed for demolition, recommitted to the Committee from the Board on 2/22/11. **Contact Jen Molinsky at 617-796-1130 or jmolinsky@newtonma.gov or Seth Zeren at 617-796-1145 or szeren@newtonma.gov.**

- **Economic Development Commission:** The Commission will meet on **Tuesday, April 12th** at 7:30 p.m. in Room 209. The Agenda includes updates on ongoing projects. **Contact Amanda Stout at 617.796.1127 or astout@newtonma.gov.**
- **Auburndale Historic District Commission:** The Commission will meet on **Tuesday, April 12th** at 7:30 p.m. in Room 203. Items on the agenda include: **24 Groveland Street** request to install chimney and louvers on garage; **221 Woodland Road**; request to amend previous approval with larger dormer; and **Administrative Discussion:** Minutes and Design Guidelines. **Contact Brian Lever at 617.796.1129 or blever@newtonma.gov.**
- **Land Use – Public Hearing/Working Session:** The Committee will hold a Public Hearing with Working Session(s) to follow on **Tuesday, April 12th** at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber. The agenda includes the following: **#80-11**, Errol Norwitz, petition to increase the floor area ratio from .4196 to .468 where .42 is allowed at **68 Day Street**; **#61-11**, New Cingular Wireless by AT&T Mobility/ Andover/Newton Theological Society, petition to add three antennas to an existing array of six antennas on a rooftop with ancillary equipment located inside an adjacent building at **216 Herrick Road**; **#337-05(2)**, New Cingular Wireless by AT&T Mobility, to add three wireless antennas on the façade of a rooftop penthouse behind a faux-brick stealthing to an existing 6 antenna array (for a total of 9) and to extend the faux-brick stealthing at **209 Commonwealth Avenue**. **Contact Derek Valentine at 617.796.1123 or dvalentine@newtonma.gov.**
- **Newton Housing Partnership:** The Partnership will meet on **Wednesday, April 13th** at 7:45 a.m. in Room 202. Items on the agenda include: introduction of new members; consider approval of March meeting minutes; results of alternative meeting schedule survey; general feedback on memo “Affordable Housing in Newton: Ideas for Consideration and Discussion;” Overview of Nominating, Policy and Programs, and Project Review subcommittees; discussion of next steps including potential ad hoc committee formation to review Partnership’s structure; and other business including updates on current housing proposals, CDBG Program status, regulatory progress and others. **Contact Robert Muollo, Jr. at 617.796.1146 or rmuollo@newtonma.gov.**
- **“Envisioning Needham Street”:** The Planning and Development Department is moving forward with a master planning process for the Needham Street corridor. This process will build on the recent work of MIT graduate students to establish a vision for Needham Street. Whether you are a property owner, a business owner, a resident who lives on or near the corridor or anyone who works, shops, or frequents the Needham Street, we hope that you will participate in upcoming meetings. The next meeting will provide a recap of the corridor’s history and will invite participants to share their thoughts about what’s good and not so good about the existing conditions in order to develop a shared view of possible enhancements for the future. The community meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 14th** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the War Memorial in City Hall. **Contact Candace Havens at 617-796-1137 or chavens@newtonma.gov.**

